

Doctors covered up JFK autopsy information

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Records of the 1963 autopsy performed on John F. Kennedy are incomplete, and the doctors who conducted it undermined the integrity of their work by trying to protect "the privacy and the sensibilities of the president's family," a government board says.

The Assassination Records Review Board says it is able to answer the question about what Navy doctor James Humes did with notes taken during the autopsy and his first draft of the autopsy report.

Previously, Dr. Humes, one of three autopsy doctors, confirmed that he tossed autopsy papers — some stained with Mr. Kennedy's blood — into his fireplace while writing the report. But it was unclear exactly what he had burned.

"Under oath, Dr. Humes, finally acknowledged under persistent questioning — in testimony that differs from what he told the Warren Commission — that he had destroyed both his notes taken at the autopsy and the first draft of the autopsy report," the board said.

Dr. Humes's 248-page testimony is included among more than 3,000 pages of medical documents released by the board last week.

After the 1963 assassination, a White House doctor was concerned that the medical team not disclose the fact that the president had Addison's disease, a rare and sometimes fatal illness.

Dr. Humes had promised the physician that the medical team would not discuss the issue until all the then-living members of the Kennedy family were dead, a second autopsy doctor told the board.

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